

**Subpart B—PHAS Indicator #1:
Physical Condition**

§ 902.20 Physical condition assessment.

(a) *Objective.* The objective of the Physical Condition Indicator is to determine whether a PHA is meeting the standard of decent, safe, sanitary, and in good repair (DSS/GR), as this standard is defined in § 902.23 (a standard that provides acceptable basic housing conditions) and the level to which the PHA is maintaining its public housing in accordance with this standard.

(b) *Physical inspection under PHAS Indicator #1.* (1) To achieve the objective of paragraph (a) of this section, REAC will provide for an independent physical inspection of a PHA's property or properties that includes, at minimum, a statistically valid sample of the units in the PHA's public housing portfolio to determine the extent of compliance with the DSS/GR standard.

(2) Only occupied units will be inspected as dwelling units (except units approved by HUD for non-dwelling purposes, e.g., daycare or meetings, which are inspected as common areas). Vacant units that are not under lease at the time of the physical inspection will not be inspected, but vacant units are assessed under the Financial Condition Indicator #2 (§ 902.35(b)(4)). The categories of vacant units not under lease that are exempted from physical inspection are as follows:

(i) Units undergoing vacant unit turnaround—vacant units that are in the routine process of turn over; *i.e.*, the period between which one resident has vacated a unit and a new lease takes effect;

(ii) Units undergoing rehabilitation—vacant units that have substantial rehabilitation needs already identified, and there is an approved implementation plan to address the identified rehabilitation needs and the plan is fully funded;

(iii) Off-line units—vacant units that have repair requirements such that the units cannot be occupied in a normal period of time (considered to be between 5 and 7 days) and which are not included under an approved rehabilitation plan;

(c) *PHA physical inspection requirement.* The HUD-conducted physical inspections required by this part do not relieve the PHA of the responsibility to inspect public housing units as provided in section 6(f)(3) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437d(f)(3)), and § 902.43(a).

(d) *Compliance with State and local codes.* The physical condition standards in this subpart do not supersede or preempt State and local building and maintenance codes with which the PHA's public housing must comply. PHAs must continue to adhere to these codes.

[65 FR 1738, Jan. 11, 2000, as amended at 65 FR 36044, June 6, 2000]

§ 902.23 Physical condition standards for public housing—decent, safe, and sanitary housing in good repair (DSS/GR).

(a) *General.* Public housing must be maintained in a manner that meets the physical condition standards set forth in this part in order to be considered decent, safe, sanitary and in good repair (standards that constitute acceptable basic housing conditions). These standards address the major physical areas of public housing: site; building exterior; building systems; dwelling units; and common areas (see paragraph (b) of this section). These standards also identify health and safety considerations (see paragraph (c) of this section). These standards address acceptable basic housing conditions, not the adornment, decor or other cosmetic appearance of the housing.

(b) *Major inspectable areas.* The five major inspectable areas of public housing are the following:

(1) *Site.* The site includes components, such as fencing and retaining walls, grounds, lighting, mailboxes, signs (such as those identifying the development or areas of the development), parking lots/driveways, play areas and equipment, refuse disposal, roads, storm drainage and walkways. The site must be free of health and safety hazards and be in good repair. The site must not be subject to material adverse conditions, such as abandoned vehicles, dangerous walks or steps, poor drainage, septic tank back-

ups, sewer hazards, excess accumulations of trash, vermin or rodent infestation or fire hazards.

(2) *Building exterior.* Each building on the site must be structurally sound, secure, habitable, and in good repair. The building's exterior components such as doors, fire escapes, foundations, lighting, roofs, walls, and windows, where applicable, must be free of health and safety hazards, operable, and in good repair.

(3) *Building systems.* The building's systems include components such as domestic water, electrical system, elevators, emergency power, fire protection, HVAC, and sanitary system. Each building's systems must be free of health and safety hazards, functionally adequate, operable, and in good repair.

(4) *Dwelling units.* (i) Each dwelling unit within a building must be structurally sound, habitable, and in good repair. All areas and aspects of the dwelling unit (for example, the unit's bathroom, call-for-aid, ceiling, doors, electrical systems, floors, hot water heater, HVAC (where individual units are provided), kitchen, lighting, outlets/switches, patio/porch/balcony, smoke detectors, stairs, walls, and windows) must be free of health and safety hazards, functionally adequate, operable, and in good repair.

(ii) Where applicable, the dwelling unit must have hot and cold running water, including an adequate source of potable water.

(iii) If the dwelling unit includes its own sanitary facility, it must be in proper operating condition, usable in privacy, and adequate for personal hygiene and the disposal of human waste.

(iv) The dwelling unit must include at least one battery-operated or hard-wired smoke detector, in proper working condition, on each level of the unit.

(5) *Common areas.* The common areas must be structurally sound, secure, and functionally adequate for the purposes intended. The common areas include components such as basement/garage/carport, restrooms, closets, utility, mechanical, community rooms, day care, halls/corridors, stairs, kitchens, laundry rooms, office, porch, patio, balcony, and trash collection areas, if applicable. The common areas must be free of health and safety hazards, oper-

able, and in good repair. All common area ceilings, doors, floors, HVAC, lighting, outlets/switches, smoke detectors, stairs, walls, and windows, to the extent applicable, must be free of health and safety hazards, operable, and in good repair.

(c) *Health and safety concerns.* All areas and components of the housing must be free of health and safety hazards. These areas include, but are not limited to, air quality, electrical hazards, elevators, emergency/fire exits, flammable materials, garbage and debris, handrail hazards, infestation, and lead-based paint. For example, the buildings must have fire exits that are not blocked and have hand rails that are undamaged and have no other observable deficiencies. The housing must have no evidence of infestation by rats, mice, or other vermin, or of garbage and debris. The housing must have no evidence of electrical hazards, natural hazards, or fire hazards. The dwelling units and common areas must have proper ventilation and be free of mold, odor (*e.g.*, propane, natural gas, methane gas), or other observable deficiencies. The housing must comply with all regulations and requirements related to the ownership of pets, and the evaluation and reduction of lead-based paint hazards and have available proper certifications of such (see 24 CFR part 35).

§ 902.24 Physical inspection of PHA properties.

(a) *The inspection, generally.* The score for PHAS Indicator #1 is based upon an independent physical inspection of a PHA's properties provided by REAC and using HUD's uniform physical inspection protocols.

(1) During the physical inspection of a property, an inspector looks for deficiencies for each inspectable item within the inspectable areas, such as holes (deficiencies) in the walls (item) of a dwelling unit (area). The dwelling units inspected in a property are a randomly selected, statistically valid sample of the units in the property, excluding vacant units not under lease at the time of the physical inspection, as provided in § 902.20(b)(2).

(2) To ensure prompt correction of health and safety deficiencies before